

HONOLULU (UPI)-- THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WAS ORDERED BY A FEDERAL JUDGE FRIDAY TO HAND OVER INFORMATION ABOUT AGENCY INVOLVEMENT IN A BANKRUPT HONOLULU INVESTMENT FIRM WHOSE OWNER HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH FRAUD.

U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE HAROLD FONG TOLD THE CIA TO RESPOND TO 1,717 REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION FROM RONALD REWALD, WHO CONTENDS THE AGENCY USED HIS INVESTMENT COMPANY AS A FRONT FOR UNDERCOVER OPERATIONS AND WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS BANKRUPTCY.

THE AGENCY HAS TWO WEEKS TO OBEY THE ORDER OR EXPLAIN WHY IT REFUSES.

REWALD, CHARGED WITH FRAUD FOR POCKETING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS INVESTED IN HIS FIRM OF BISHOP, BALDWIN, REWALD, BILLINGHAM AND WONG, CLAIMS THE CIA RENEGED ON PROMISES TO REIMBURSE HIM FOR AGENCY-RELATED ACTIVITIES.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS ADMITTED THE INVESTMENT COMPANY SOMETIMES WAS USED AS A MESSAGE DROP, BUT DENIES RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BANKRUPTCY.

REWALD'S ATTORNEY, FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER MICHAEL LEVINE, SAID HE FILED 1,717 REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE CIA'S CONNECTION TO THE HONOLULU COMPANY.

HE SAID THAT AFTER THE GOVERNMENT RESPONDS TO FRIDAY'S ORDER, REWALD WILL REPLY AND THE JUDGE WILL DECIDE WHAT INFORMATION SHOULD BE RELEASED.